

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02765 201158Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00

L-02 PRS-01 AGR-05 /062 W
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R 201000Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 962

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2765

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, USSAEC

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

REF: A. STATE 84869; B. STATE 82244

1. AS SUGGESTED IN REFTTEL A, HANNAH DID NOT VISIT SAUDI ARABIA,
NOR ARE OFFICIALS IN MIN AG EXPECTING A VISIT.

2. THE PRIMARY CONTACT ON THIS SUBJECT IS DEPUTY MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE TAHIR OBEID. OBEID WAS PRIME DRAFTER OF THE FINAL
DRAFT ON THIS SUBJECT AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. HE ALSO CLAIMS
TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AVOIDING CONTROVERSY BETWEEN DEVELOPED
AND LESS-DEVELOPED WORLD BY CONVINCING LATTER TO LEAVE OUT
REFERENCE TO QUOTAS BASED ON PER CAPITA INCOME, AND SIMILAR
ITEMS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR WEST TO FOLLOW.

3. EITHER OBEID OR MIN AG HIMSELF WILL ATTEND ANY MEETING ON
THE SUBJECT. (OBEID'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SUCH A MEETING
MAY BE HELD IN JUNE NOT REPEAT NOT IN MAY.) THE SAG HAS NOT
ADOPTED A FORMAL POSITION, BUT OBEID BELIEVES SAUDI
ARABIA WILL UNDERTAKE A HEALTHY FINANACIAL PARTICIPATION
IN SUCH A FUND.

4. OBEID CONTINUES TO FEEL SLIGHTED BY FAILURE OF U.S.
REPS TO RESPOND TO HIS OVERTURES OF FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATE
AT WFC IN ROME. INASMUCH AS THE AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND APPEARS TO US TO BE ALMOST A SURE THING,
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WE WOULD RECOMMEND A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

BY A USDA OFFICIAL. SUCH A VISIT COULD CEMENT FOR THE
U.S. A NATURAL ALLY IN SUBSEQUENT FORA AT WHICH OBEID
WILL BE KEY SAUDI REP. VISIT COULD ALSO BE USEFUL IN
JOINT COMMISSION CONTEXT. FEEMAN (REFTEL STATE 84564)
SHOULD BE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT THIS SUBJECT AND COULD
PROVIDE A GOOD ADVANCE CONTACT.
AKINS

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